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HONOLULU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1896.

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EDUCATORS MEET

For Purpose of Discussing Practice School.

MR. DUMAS' DECIDED OPINIONS

Division of Teachers on the Subject.

Board Decides to Limit Attendance to Fifty Boys—Rev. Mackintosh to be Consulted.

At a meeting of the Board of Education, held yesterday afternoon, there were present President Smith, Mrs. B. F. Dillingham, Mrs. E. W. Jordan, Prof. Alexander, Deputy Inspector-General Scott, Rev. Alexander Mackintosh of the Royal School, Miss Marion of the Beretania Street School, Miss Rhoda Green of Kawaiahao School, Miss Duncan of Pohukaina, Mrs. Wood of the Practice School, Mr. Armstrong Smith of the Fort Street School and Mr. Dumas of the Normal School.

The teachers named above were called before the Board of Education to express their opinions on the Practice School, to be opened in about a week.

The question before the meeting was how the school should be supplied, and President Smith asked Mr. Scott if he had any plan to offer in this direction. He had no plan in mind, but offered a brief explanation of the situation.

Mr. Scott—At the present time the Beretania Street School is very much crowded, as every one knows. There are nearly a hundred pupils at that place now, and the accommodations are sufficient to make only about 54 comfortable. It is hoped that the stress can be relieved from this school by taking some of the children to the Practice School.

Mr. Dumas—If it is the idea of the Board to use the Practice School as a place to relieve the stress from the other schools of the city, then it seems to me that the idea of such a school is not uppermost. Children should be picked from each of the two lower grades of schools in the city and placed in the Practice School. Something has been said against the attendance of girls. I see no harm at all in allowing the boys and girls to go there together.

Armstrong Smith—This matter of picking children from the different schools, I believe, is not practical in any sense of the word. It may be all well enough to say: "Here, I want so many children from this and so many from that school; but one thing must be remembered. When parents send their children to me or to some other teacher, they intend that those children shall be taught by the ones to whom they have been sent, and they will be sure to object if they are taken away and put under some other teacher.

Mr. Dumas—I don't believe in forcing the children to go to the Practice School. I think it can be filled up without such means.

Mr. Armstrong-Smith—I think the teachers should be given just what they will meet with in the every-day school.

President Smith remarked playfully that he would rather not have his children practiced upon, whereat there was a hearty laugh on the part of some of the teachers.

Mr. Dumas—There are trained teachers who will have the supervision of the school, and they will see that nothing goes wrong. I think it is wrong to imply that children will be injured by attending the school.

Mr. Armstrong-Smith—Regarding the matter of having boys and girls together at the Practice School, I believe it to be a good plan. They should be trained for every-day life and how can this be accomplished if there be boys or girls alone at the school?

Mr. Scott—I am in favor of giving each room the usual average number of 40 pupils.

Rev. Alexander Mackintosh—The main idea is the effect this new departure will have on the children. The teachers should be trained in every possible way. If there are so many pupils as has just been suggested, the end will not be attained.

Mr. Dumas—The teachers must be presented with what they will have to meet outside.

Rev. Alexander Mackintosh—I do not think that it would be right to produce anxiety of mind on the part of the teachers by crowding them with work.

Mr. Dumas—It will be a serious injury to the school if boys and girls are not allowed to attend the school together. If the beginning is made with boys, there is no possibility of ever getting any girls to attend. In order to make a beginning we are willing to take 20 pupils in each room, but we are likewise willing to take the average number of 40 if the Board wants to send them. The work cannot be done with boys or girls alone.

President Smith thanked the teachers for the discussion so far, and told them that even if the idea of the Practice School could not be carried out to the fullest extent the words spoken by them had been of greatest benefit.

Miss Duncan—It is most important that the boys and girls be thrown together in the Practice School. They will thus be taught politeness and be better fitted for life.

Mr. Armstrong-Smith—I think it was the happiest moment of my life when I saw a boy and girl sitting together in one seat looking over a picture book together. It was a long time before I could bring the boys and girls of my school to this point.

Mrs. Wood told something of the way the schools were conducted in Canada, and of the advantages accruing from the association of the boys and girls.

President Smith—I believe in the co-education of the sexes, but I question if it is altogether right to have a small number of girls in the Practice School in the close neighborhood of the Royal School, where there are between 500 and 600 boys.

Mr. Dumas—The girls of the Practice School will not have to go home at the same time as the boys. If the latter are gentlemen, I can't see why there is any danger if the girls should go home at the same time.

Rev. Alexander Mackintosh said he could easily furnish 40 boys from his school. However, I should like to be given a week's notice, so I can pick out the boys.

President Smith—Would there not be less danger of objection if the pupils are all taken from the Royal School?

Mr. Dumas—We want the average children at the Practice School. The Deputy Inspector-General and not the teachers should be the one to pick out the children. We don't want the most stupid nor yet the smartest children. The teachers have no right to unload upon us.

Rev. Alexander Mackintosh—If that is the case, it would probably be a good thing to advertise the school and allow those who wish to go to present themselves at the school.

After a little more discussion, the teachers were excused, and the Board proceeded to consider the matter.

The Board decided by unanimous vote that the attendance at the Practice School be limited to 50, that these be boys, and that Mr. Mackintosh be consulted about the matter.

It was decided that the holiday vacation be from December 18th, 1896, to January 4th, 1897.

Deputy Inspector-General Scott's report on Waiawa School was adopted with recommendations.

The resignation of Iliha from Waiawa was accepted.

Miss McCord was transferred from Waihiha to Hilo.

The Board adjourned at 4:30 p. m. to meet again next Thursday.

Wednesday's Fire.

Developments yesterday may result in an investigation being made into the cause of the fire at Mr. Farrington's Wednesday night. Evidence has been discovered which leads the authorities to believe that it was of incendiary origin. Mr. Gray, the owner of the house, estimates his loss at \$2,500, while Mr. Farrington places his at \$2,000.

ABOUT THE CABLE

Prominent Citizens Object to Extending Option.

SPALDING SHOULD BEGIN WORK

Franchise Originally Opposed by Merchants.

Government Should Expediate Matters—Let Company Best Qualified Build the Line.

The editorial in Thursday's issue of the Advertiser anent the cable seems to have expressed the feelings of a majority of the business men in the community. A few were willing to give their opinions when spoken to by an Advertiser reporter yesterday, while others for business and social relations with Col. Spalding preferred not to have their names mentioned.

J. B. Atherton, President of the Chamber of Commerce and managing partner of the firm of Castle & Cooke, said:

"I am opposed to any extension of the franchise to Col. Spalding or giving a franchise for a long period to any one. Nor do I particularly advocate franchises by the Government unless there is a forfeit clause, which provides that the person forfeit the amount of the deposit if the work is not completed within a specified time. I believe, also, that there should be a clause providing that the Government may assume control of the cable when it can. We have enough of long franchises in the Tramways Company, and I think that should be a lesson not to grant any more long ones. If I remember correctly, there was a franchise granted in 1865 to Cyrus W. Field, and we have been ever since then trying to get a cable through."

One of the largest retailers in the city preferred not to say anything for publication, but gave it as his opinion that the line should be built as soon as possible and preferably by an American company. He opposed any extension of the franchise or granting a long one to any company, unless there was a deposit which would be forfeited unless the cable was laid within a certain time.

William G. Irwin, than whom no one more interested in the development of Hawaii can be found, expressed himself as being strongly opposed to an extension of time.

"Opposed to it? Of course, I am, but if you say so in the Advertiser the public will say it is for personal reasons, but this is not the case. I don't believe in giving long franchises to any one individual or corporation. What is the use of tying up the Government for a long period? The franchise was given to Col. Spalding in opposition to the wishes of the business firms who represent three-fourths of the capital of the country. The result of Col. Spalding's effort at Washington shows that these men were right in opposing it. The oftener the franchises are extended the longer we will be without a cable, and the more funny forfeit clauses inserted in them the more pleasure it will be to the man who gets the franchise. What does the \$20,000 deposit amount to? Col. Spalding went off and bought that amount in Hawaiian bonds, and they're a good investment, I have more than that myself, and then tied a string around the package and told them to keep them in the Government vaults—where they would be safe. It was cheaper than renting a box in the

Safe Deposit Company, and there was no risk. I'll wager anything he's been laughing about that deposit ever since. I want a cable as much as anyone in the country, and I guess this house will use it as much. I am so anxious for it, in fact, that I don't want an option given to anyone. On the contrary, when the Government is ready to assist by a subsidy, let them notify the different Governments and give every one a chance, and accept the one that will do the most toward building the line promptly. I am opposed to giving any one man a franchise which he can put in his vest pocket and then travel from one end of Europe to the other trying to peddle it. It's of no consequence to me who builds the line or the nationality of it; I will enjoy receiving a message over a wire laid by United States companies quite as well as if it was built by English or French capital or vice versa."

Neither Mr. Isenberg nor Mr. Hackfeld were in their office when the reporter called, but it was learned that both gentlemen oppose a continuance now as strenuously as they opposed granting the franchise in the first place.

Tom May, who does an extensive business in groceries, buying largely alike in England and America, said in response to a request for his views.

"I am not very prominent here, and haven't really given the matter much thought. I would say, however, that I think Col. Spalding received an extraordinary concession, and he has had a pretty good show. If he finds at the end of his time he cannot get the backing he anticipated, it would be a good thing to take the forfeit and give someone else a chance. They might negotiate with—who was that old chap who came here from the Colonies? Sir Audley Coote? Yes, that's the man; let's see what he will do with it. Our relations with the United States are such that I believe in giving a company over there the first chance, then if they don't want to take it, let some one else have a try. We want the cable, and without delay, but I've no idea that a long option will bring it to us very quickly."

Charles M. Cooke, a leading capitalist, and member of the firm of Lewers & Cooke, was the only person questioned who favored more time being given.

"I believe in giving Col. Spalding another chance," he said, "because I think the experience he has had will help him when the matter comes up again. Why do I want him to have more time? Because he is an American, and I am in favor of the line being built and operated by American capital. Col. Spalding worked hard to get a bill through Congress, and failed because another company came in. They knew the Colonel had the inside track in Hawaii, and made him a proposition to join them, but he declined it. This was when negotiations were first opened in Washington. Later, when Col. Spalding saw how things were going, that the New Jersey company had the best of it in Congress, he made a proposition to them, reconsidering his refusal to combine with them and asked to join. As everything pointed with favor to their getting a subsidy from the United States, and as they believed Col. Spalding could not, they declined his offer. I think all this will help him next time. If he fails to pull it through it will be a loss of a cash outlay of perhaps \$75,000, for he has spent that much in trying to get the bill through. He has been to Europe a number of times, and has retained a firm of New York lawyers who don't work for nothing. I think an extension of the option, say, for a year, would be about long enough, and then if work has not begun let him forfeit \$10,000, or even twice that amount, but I would prefer the former. I would say the same regarding the loan which Mr. Jones has tried to negotiate. He may come back here and say he has failed to raise the money."

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